

February 5, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Commission Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Proceeding 03-16**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce strongly supports approval of SBC in Michigan to offer long distance service.

By allowing any and all telecommunications firms to provide whatever services they choose, (e.g., local, long distance, DSL, data services and others) a level playing field will be created whereby customers can choose a provider to fit their needs. Businesses and residential consumers will benefit by the increased savings from full competition in all areas of telecommunications.

We understand that SBC Michigan was given approval by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) and is currently petitioning the FCC to bring full competition to the state. The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce recognizes that approval of this request will help to open the market to local and long distance competition and the incumbent local exchange companies (ILEC) will provide non-discriminatory access for competitors to its network, both of which are core values of the chamber.

Therefore, The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce strongly supports a positive recommendation by the Michigan Public Service Commission and approval by the Federal Communications Commission allowing SBC in Michigan to offer long distance service. Providing maximum competition will be a benefit to both business and the citizens of Michigan. We stand ready to support your efforts.

Sincerely,



James Bockelman  
President, CCE



Veronica L. Horn  
Vice President

